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# Amateur Home Decoration.

Edward Dawson, del.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Our readers who are either building new houses or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions of interior decoration.

In compliance with the wishes of many of our correspondents to purchase housefurnishing goods in New York, we notify our readers that we have organized a Purchasing Department, and are prepared to purchase goods at prices quoted, without making any charge therefor. We strongly advise those who write to us for decorative color schemes to carefully consider our advice, with the samples of the various materials in hand, which we invariably send with each

reply, so that their minds will be fully made up when they ask us to purchase the goods, and know that every item of their order is the result of a definite decision. It is impossible to exchange goods after the materials have been cut and shipped, and we hope, in all cases, that the goods as ordered, when sent will be accepted and paid for.

Correspondents when writing us are particularly requested to embody a reply to the following points in their letters:

1. Write legibly and on one side of the paper.
2. Send copy of architect's plan or a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing size, height and arrangement of rooms, with the north and south aspects clearly indicated.
3. Give particulars of existing wood-work, mentioning the nature of the trim, floor, cornice, picture-moldings and mantel in each room; state what must be retained, and what, if any, specified articles of furniture are desired.
4. State separately the maximum outlay permissible for wall treatments, ceiling decoration (if any), textile hangings, carpets and furniture.
5. Send brief notes of the house, its location, age and environment, and such particulars of the owner's tastes and sentiments bearing upon the matter as would be discovered from a personal interview.
6. Send ten two-cent stamps if samples of paper, carpets, draperies, etc. are desired by mail, otherwise we must express same at inquirer's expense.

## THE CARE OF PHOTOGRAPHS.

By CHARLOTTE WHITCOMB.

SINCE the advent of the kodak photographs have multiplied to such an extent that it has come to be a puzzle to know what to do with them. Albums are no longer to be considered as receptacles for any but old-fashioned family photographs; baskets are dust-catchers, plush and linen cases are inadequate; so the photographs crowd the wall-pockets, overflow the portfolios, and are piled in the corners of the library and hall in stacks which are always toppling over, to the disgust of the housemaid and the concern of the owner.

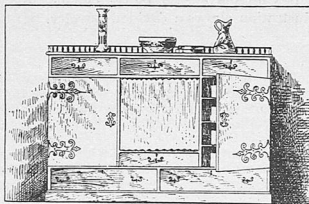
Many of these prints are real art treasures worth preserving, others have an interest in a pictorial way, while others are valuable because of association or as marking one's progress in the art of photography. Then why not prepare a place for them where they may be preserved and classified and be readily obtainable?

The cabinet represented in the accompanying illustration is found to be very satisfactory. It is thirty inches wide, twenty inches from top to bottom, and eight inches deep. It is found of ample size to contain the not insignificant collection of an amateur photographer, but might be made larger or in a set of several of one size to contain the possessions of an artist.

The curtained recess in the centre accommodates the kodak; the shelves on either side are protected by doors, and the six drawers will receive prints, unmounted photographs, and choice pictures of various sizes.

Here are a few hints for the formation of your treasure-house. For the foundation get a grocer's box of the size you want. Very substantial, well-finished boxes of a large size may be found at warehouses and in importing houses, or any respectable retail grocer can give you very good boxes. Select one which is free from loose knots, and which is of well planed wood and as neatly made as possible. The thin wood of an old tea-chest will answer for partitions and doors, and has the advantage of being easy to work, while cigar boxes will do for drawers if you find them of the right size.

If you decide you must make the drawers, the parts should first be glued together, then further secured by brads. Remove the labels from the cigar boxes, sand-paper away all roughnesses, fill the wood with some good filler, then varnish; a second sand-papering and varnishing will add to the beauty of the finish.



A HOME MADE PHOTOGRAPH CASE.

The handles for the drawers, the hinge and bars for the doors and the little brass rod for the curtain are comparatively inexpensive—a dollar would cover the outlay, and they put the finishing touches to the cabinet.

A set of hanging shelves with drapery across the front would be better than "no place" for photographs, and pasteboard boxes would protect the more valuable ones from dust and defacement.

My neighbor is both an illustrator and cartoonist; he possesses many photographs, prints and engravings, the tools of his profession; these he must have classified and at hand when he needs them, and so he has originated a method of keeping them which is to be commended more on the score of convenience than beauty. Suspended from the picture rail in his studio are breadths of stout cloth, sometimes denim, sometimes canvas; these have a succession of pockets of different sizes stitched on. The pockets are labelled: "Politicians," "Presidents," (what is the difference?) "Millionaires," "Society Women," "Violinists," etc., etc. Other wall spaces are criss-crossed by strips of elastic ribbon behind which are thrust pictures of larger size.

The effect is not unpleasant, though it must be confessed the pockets sometimes sag, and sometimes they gape in a way pockets have of gaping. The pocket arrangement is liked by my neighbor much better than pigeon-holes, shelves or drawers, because, as he says, he is a workman, instead of a collector or an exhibitor. Then, an entire strip of pocketed prints can be lifted from the wall, rolled up and strapped and carried with him without loss of time when he goes from place to place.